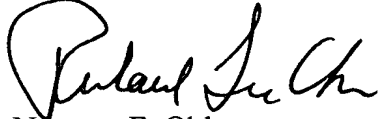


Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Preliminary Amendment Filed: HEREWITH

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, lines 7-8, please amend the second full paragraph to read as follows:

--Keratotic plug removers are described by Uemura et al. in US. 5,512,277 and U.S.
[6,306, 328] 6,306,382--

IN THE CLAIMS

-- 4. (Amended) The keratotic plug remover according to claim 1, wherein polymer (A) is a polymer selected from the group consisting of (a) homopolymers of a vinyl monomer having a (meth)acryloyl skeleton or styrene skeleton and a sulfonic, group, or a salt thereof, (b) copolymers of vinyl monomer having a (meth)acryloyl skeleton or styrene skeleton and a sulfonic, group, or a salt thereof with a monomer copolymerizable therewith, (c) polysaccharides having a sulfonic group or a salt thereof, and (d) homopolymers of vinylsulfonic acid, allylsulfonic acid or a salt thereof, or copolymers of such a monomer with a monomer copolymerizable therewith.--